

## No Fatalities

# Elma, Neighboring Area Severely Hit

By HARRY GUNDACKER  
Courier Correspondent

ELMA — Scenes of chaos marked Elma and neighboring areas Thursday in the wake of a tornado accompanied by a severe hail storm that wreaked an estimated \$1 to \$1.5 million damage Wednesday.

Two Elma women, Mrs. Thomas Smith and Mrs. Ora Conroy, were hospitalized in New Hampton Thursday with injuries from the storm. Numerous other persons were treated Wednesday at the New Hampton hospital and released.

The Smith and Conroy homes were two of those completely destroyed. Other homes completely destroyed included those of James Gansen and Mrs. Margaret McAvoy.

### Roads Blocked

Roads into Elma were officially blocked Thursday to keep out sightseers.

Within town in an area about four by six blocks on the west side, virtually every tree was either stripped of branches or downed. Many streets were blocked by the trees.

Scarcely a home or building in the area escaped damage. Downed power lines in the streets created additional hazards through the town.

No telephone service into Elma existed Thursday, but some telephone service within town had been restored by 10 p.m. Wednesday.

### Power Out

Power also was completely out Thursday, but Mayor Clarence Turnis said some

auxiliary power might be available by Thursday afternoon.

Mayor Turnis also expressed concern about possible contamination of the water supply.

The cluster of immaculate Conception Catholic Church buildings, including church, school and parsonage, was extensively damaged. The entire church roof was removed some two blocks down the street by the winds.

Other buildings severely damaged included the Howard County garage and a corn-drying plant.

The storm appears to have struck this southern Howard County town of about 700 persons about 5:30 p.m. Wednesday. Mrs. Gerald Fogarty said she saw the funnel approach and dip down about then as she returned to Elma from a shopping trip.

An unidentified woman insisted she saw three funnels converging on the town.

### Farms Hit

The storm also inflicted heavy damage in an area about six miles in both directions southwest and northeast of Elma. Farms especially hard hit in the area included those of Mrs. Ludwina Zimet, Charles McGee, Ed O'Brien, Earl Kelly, Larry Vovits, Don Fairchild and Walter Fair.

Witnesses in the country said the storm was accompanied by heavy hail which added its own severe destruction.

Neighboring communities sending help to Elma ranged

as far as Austin, Minn., about 50 miles away.

St. Joseph's Community Hospital at New Hampton was a receiving station for storm victims from both Charles City and Elma and was reported completely filled with patients in the halls Thursday. Officials contemplated turning the parochial school into an emergency ward but had not needed to resort to that measure Thursday.

Condition reports from the New Hampton hospital were unavailable Thursday because records were incomplete. Officials said they were still trying to identify the home areas of some of the patients.

## Belmond Mayor Says Faith Will Rebuild Towns

BELMOND (AP) — The former mayor of Belmond, which was ravaged by a tornado 19 months ago, says Charles City and Oelwein can be rebuilt if their residents keep the faith.

"People will be vomiting and walking around with glassy eyes for two days," said Dr. Robert Misner. "Those two days are the toughest any town can have."

"But no matter how hopeless it looks, no matter the human hurt, they can whip it. Right now, their first job is to keep faith with each other and in God; then start digging people out. Help on the way."

Six people were killed and 172 were injured in the Oct. 14, 1966, Belmond tornado. Most of the town has been rebuilt.

## Graduate Study Grant Awarded To Osage Man

(COURIER NEWS SERVICE)  
OSAGE — James Lesch, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Lesch, Osage, has been awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation to attend graduate school at Duke University, Durham, N.C.

The grant includes tuition, fees, and \$2,400 yearly, plus \$500 yearly for each dependent, and is renewable for three years.

Lesch will receive his degree in mechanical engineering from General Motors Institute, Flint, Mich. July 26. He is a 1963 graduate of Osage Community High School.

# Little Warning Before Tornado Struck Oelwein

By DAVE BROWN  
Courier Staff Writer

OELWEIN — There was little warning Wednesday afternoon when the tornado came down on Oelwein.

Mike Mahoney, managing editor of the Oelwein Daily Register, may have been one of the first to see it.

"It hit Lake Oelwein first," Mahoney said. "The trailer court there is all gone."

"The people downtown couldn't have seen it," Mahoney was going at the Elks Country Club course southwest of the city at 4:57 p.m. He saw the funnel.

"It came right down out of the sky," Mahoney said. Seconds later, as the massive funnel ripped a swath through Oelwein, Fireman Wallace Rundle rushed out of the fire station in city hall when he heard people shouting, "Tornado! Tornado!"

### Pushed Siren

"When I saw the funnel I ran as fast as I could inside," Rundle said, "and pushed the siren button."

The Oelwein siren is used to notify volunteer firemen of an alarm. It can be heard throughout the city. But, Wednesday afternoon, there was not enough time.

"It went about 15 seconds," Rundle said, "before the electricity went off. I couldn't give them the full five minutes, but I did the best I could."

"Then all hell broke loose!" Rundle and LaVern Wolgram, the other fireman on duty, rounded up all the city hall employees, who were to get off work in three minutes, and rushed them to the basement of the city hall as the building caved in around them.

"They were pretty panicky," Rundle said. "Some of them were screaming."

### Calmed Employees

Rundle and Wolgram calmed the city employees, then, when the storm had passed, they emerged from the wrecked city hall.

Rundle drove the Oelwein firetrucks out of the station. Then they got a rescue call

to the Ben Franklin Store, where Mrs. Grace Damon was pinned underneath a fallen chimney.

Mrs. Damon, who had moved into the apartment over the store only two days previously, had been forced through the floor of her apartment, and hung half in her apartment and half through the ceiling.

### Died at Hospital

Several men worked for nearly an hour to free her. She died at Mercy Hospital.

A volunteer at the hospital took her husband, "Chick," to the Brant Funeral Home. Damon, unshaven and unsteady, seemed dazed.

"If I could, of got home I would of taken care of it," he mumbled to a nurse.

Mrs. Richard Peshek, of 151 1st Ave. N.E., across from the city hall, said her husband was looking out of an upstairs window at their residence when "he saw the clouds going every which way," and saw "a man running down the street."

### Escape Injury

They ran downstairs, and escaped injury.

"Our bedroom is kind of smashed," Mrs. Peshek said as she sat outside next door to her ruined apartment.

"I don't know what I'll do for clothes."

Jere Vyverberg, son of Oelwein Sacred Heart high school basketball coach "Hap" Vyverberg, and a crew of his friends, nailed plywood over the broken windows of his father's sporting goods store near city hall.

He sported a gauze-wrapped forearm, injured when a door blown off of the Earl Morris Hardware store, struck him. His parents were in Chicago.

"The wind blew," Vyverberg said, "and some woman fell right on top of me. I don't even know who she was."

### RUSS AID EGYPT

CAIRO (AP) — The Soviet Union pledged to supply Egypt with equipment for construction for an iron and steel complex under an agreement signed here Wednesday.

# Storm Victims Find Osage Haven for Injured, Dead

(COURIER NEWS SERVICE)

OSAGE — One person was dead on arrival at Mitchell County Memorial Hospital in Osage Wednesday, and nine were hospitalized there Thursday, brought by ambulance from Charles City in the aftermath of Wednesday evening's tornado.

The name of the dead person had not been released Thursday, pending notification of relatives.

The injuries of those hospitalized included lacerations, abrasions, fractured ribs, a fractured wrist and possible internal injuries. Most were being treated for shock also.

Another fifteen persons also were admitted to the hospital for treatment and released Wednesday night.

More room was still available at the hospital for in-patients if necessary, hospital officials said Thursday and cited the possibility of storm victims developing pneumonia in Charles City, where heat facilities have been absent since the tornado struck.

The Mitchell County disaster team reported to Charles City shortly after the disaster occurred. The team is composed of volunteer workers who have trained and studied in disaster work since the group was organized about a year ago.

Members include the volunteer fire department, the Osage Junior Chamber of Commerce and Jaycee wives. One of these women, for example, worked until about 3 a.m. Thursday

admitting patients to the hospital, reuniting families and finding persons to care for homeless children.

The Osage Police radio relayed messages in and out of Charles City throughout the night.

Among assistance and equipment rushed to aid the paralyzed Floyd County seal town was a generator from the Osage sand and gravel pit to help create temporary power.

Witnesses reported seeing a baby's shoe lying in a Charles City street, a dog running helplessly about the ruins of the family home — and amid the rubble and displaced families, one Charles City tavern still in operation with two patrons at the bar leisurely drinking beer.

# Cresco Youth Wins \$2,700 Harvard Grant

(COURIER NEWS SERVICE)

CRESCO — Kevin Middlebrook, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Middlebrook of Cresco, has been awarded a \$2,700 grant to attend Harvard College next fall.

A senior at Crestwood High School, he received a scholarship at the college after making application last October. To win, he completed aptitude tests and submitted a 500-word autobiography or paper on world events, two recommendations from faculty members, and a recommendation by the school principal.

Kevin was one of 1,250 students accepted by Harvard from among 5,000 applicants. He also received a \$500 loan to attend the college.

# 2 More Iowans Killed in Viet

By The Associated Press

Two more Iowans have been killed in combat in Vietnam, the Defense Department reports. The latest victims are:

—Army Cpl. John E. Swason Jr., 22, of Davenport, who had been stationed with the 25th Medical Battalion at Dau Tieng, South Vietnam. He joined the Army last July and had been in Vietnam since December.

—Army Pfc. Donald W. Pickering, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Pickering of Hastings. Details of both deaths were not available.

I Won \$100 Playing Extra DXtra Dough



Penny Krob

# Man Sentenced In Slaying At Sioux City

SIoux CITY (AP) — Floyd K. Peterson, 51, of Seattle, Wash., was given a 15-year prison term and fined \$1,000 Wednesday after pleading guilty to charges of manslaughter and assault with intent to commit murder.

He was charged in the Dec. 4 death of Mrs. Vesper Vickie McGuire, 47, Sioux City, who was fatally shot on a Sioux City street as she sat in a taxi cab.

Her companion, Merl Lyle Gail, 45, also of Sioux City, was wounded.

Peterson originally had been charged with murder and assault to commit murder. His wife, Maxine, 31, Rapid City, S.D., had been charged with murder and assault with intent to commit murder.

# Report Heavy Damage to Farms in Aredale Area

(COURIER NEWS SERVICE)

AREDALE — Farms in the Aredale area were reported heavily damaged by the tornadoes that swept Northeast Iowa Wednesday night.

Ruined communications in the area prevented compilation of a complete list of damage in the area or estimation of the loss.

Farms damaged in the storms include those of Lawrence McKinney, Lloyd Bailey, Roger Landers and Harry Brocka.

On the McKinney farm about a quarter mile east of Aredale, most of the buildings were destroyed — "twisted every which way," a witness said. A large tree fell on the house, and power lines were down.

Mrs. McKinney and her

sister, Miss Madonna Day, were both reported being treated for shock Thursday at their home.

Everything except the house and one other building on the Bailey farm about a mile south of town was reported blown across the road into Allred McWilliams' field. Windows in the house were broken, and boards and splinters were driven into the trees on the Bailey farm.

Debris from the Landers farm about five miles northeast of Aredale was discovered half a mile away Thursday, and the outbuildings were flung about the farmyard.

The Brocka farm about 2 1/2 miles southwest of Aredale reported damaged buildings and uprooted trees.

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